

## Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 04BRUSSELS1871, EUR/PDAS RIES MEETING WITH MATTHIAS RUETE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags `#cablegate` and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. `#04BRUSSELS1871`.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">04BRUSSELS1871</a>	2004-04-28 14:42	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Brussels

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.tanea.gr>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 001871

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/28/2014  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [TU](#) [CY](#) [EUN](#) [USEU](#) [BRUSSELS](#)  
SUBJECT: EUR/PDAS RIES MEETING WITH MATTHIAS RUETE

Classified By: USEU External Affairs Officer Andrew Erickson  
for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

-----  
Summary  
-----

[¶1.](#) (C) On April 26 EUR/PDAS Charlie Ries met in Brussels with EU Commission Enlargement Director Matthias Ruete, who is responsible in the Commission for Turkey's accession bid. Ries emphasized the US view that Turkey should not be punished for southern Cyprus' rejection of the Annan Plan. He encouraged Ruete and the Commission to look at creative ways of recognizing northern Cyprus' yes vote, and underscored the US view that Turkey has shown it is willing to do the heavy lifting required to fulfill its end of the accession bargain with the EU; it is up to the EU to offer Turkey a date in December. Ruete responded that the Cyprus vote created a "dichotomy between the political situation and the legal reality" of the division of Cyprus and Turkey's accession quest. Ruete also warned that EU member state political debate about whether Turkey should join the EU is not over. He noted public comments in France by governing party officials that "Turkey is not ready". He also asked that the US deliver a strong message to German opposition leader Angelika Merkel that her anti-Turkish position is not helpful. End comment.

-----  
Atmospherics  
And Context  
-----

[¶12.](#) (C) On April 26, EUR/PDAS Charlie Ries met with Matthias Ruete, Director, Enlargement Directorate for Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey, to review Ries' March 31 meetings in Ankara with Turkish government and political leaders on

Turkish efforts to fulfill the Copenhagen Criteria. Ries underscored continued strong US support of Turkey's accession bid, and reminded Ruete that the EU should not let Greek Cypriot rejection of the Annan Plan prejudice Turkey's accession bid, particularly given Ankara's excellent progress on the Copenhagen Criteria. In the aftermath of the decisive vote in the "TRNC" in favor of the Annan Plan, now is the time to reward Turkey for progress, not punish it.

-----  
Responding to the  
Cyprus Referenda..  
-----

13. (C) Ruete responded that Greek Cypriot rejection of the Annan Plan was a heavy blow to supporters of a date for Turkish accession talks. The GOT had shown that it could do the heavy lifting in very difficult political areas; but irrespective of who is to blame for the failure of the Annan Plan, Turkey is most likely to pay a price. With the failure of the Annan Plan, there is now "a dichotomy between the political situation and the legal reality" of the division of Cyprus. Under the Accession treaty, Ruete said, "all of Cyprus enters the EU, and Turkey doesn't recognize Cyprus"; these are realities that now block Turkey's path towards accession. It remained to be seen how the EU could address them.

14. (C) Ries suggested that the EU look at creative ways of politically recognizing Turkish Cypriot good will in the referendum. Ruete dismissed any parallel with the Hallstein doctrine (governing recognition of East Germany up until the 1970s). Ruete noted that even if EU members were inclined to recognize "TRNC", the reality was that the twenty-five EU members had just signed and ratified an accession treaty recognizing Cyprus as the legitimate government of the whole island. For this reason, Ruete said, there are no meaningful parallels with Taiwan. The EU is locked into recognition of the Republic of Cyprus alone. The bottom line for Ruete was that "the Republic of Cyprus has a capacity to be a nuisance which is enormous," with the legal tools at its disposal to back up its position.

15. (C) The rejection of the Annan Plan in the south was a bad thing; there was no question about this, in Ruete's eyes. But Cyprus' accession to the EU still brought positive elements for citizens of the "TRNC". For instance, Turkish citizens in the north are in most cases "Cypriot/EU citizens" under the terms of accession. The challenge now for the EU, and the Commission, was defining the future of the Green Line. It could go two ways: either it could become "a real border" or, Ruete suggested as his preferred alternative, "it could become more permeable; this is what I've heard from the north". Ruete speculated that while Cyprus would not take the first step in developing a formal bilateral relationship with Turkey, it would be easier for Turkey to recognize the south; this would be a clever step on the part of the Turks, he said, and might lead to some progress.

-----  
The "Turkey in EU"  
debate is not Over  
-----

16. (C) Ruete (strictly protect throughout) noted that the context of Turkey's accession bid was "evolving rapidly", with pressure growing in the European Parliament for a factual analysis of the costs and benefits of Turkish accession. The key, said Ruete, was to move off an emotional debate on the subject and on to a discussion "why Turkey should join the EU." The political debate in Europe is not won. Ries mentioned that he was getting on a train to promote the Turkish case in the Netherlands on April 27; Ruete asked for a read-out of Ries' discussions in The Hague, which Ries promised to provide.

17. (C) Ruete asked that the US ensure that German opposition leader Angelika Merkel hear a clear message from the US on why she shouldn't oppose Turkish accession; Ries said he would make sure that Washington was aware of the need to do this. On France, Ruete said that "Chirac's party is making increasingly anti-Turkish comments" with the message that "Turkey's not ready" to join the EU. Ruete offered that this message might moderate after the EU parliamentary elections this summer. Nonetheless, the Layla Zana case was "playing very loudly" in the French press. The argument is that "a country with political prisoners can't be an EU member." Ruete had heard that the GOT was working the Layla Zana case, and he would be glad if something were done, but he had heard this before. He wanted to see results.

18. (U) EUR/PDAS Ries did not have a chance to see this cable prior to departing post.

Schnabel